

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An optical observation instrument comprising:  
at least one eyepiece having an intermediate image plane; and  
a device for displaying information relating to the adjusted instrument parameters, ~~the~~ a current operating state and/or ~~the~~ an object to be observed in a visually perceptible manner being arranged in said intermediate image plane.

7. (Previously Presented) The optical observation instrument according to claim 6, wherein a self-illuminating LED display which is connected to control electronics or an LCD display with background illumination which is connected to control electronics is provided in the intermediate image plane of the eyepiece.

8. (Currently Amended) The optical observation instrument according to claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ a plurality of control electronics are integrated in the eyepiece tube and are connected by control lines and supply lines to a central operating device and supply device of the observation instrument.

9. (Previously Presented) The optical observation instrument according to claim 6, wherein the information for the observer is perceptible in the eyepiece outside the image field area reserved for observation of the specimen.

10. (Currently Amended) An eyepiece for optical observation instruments comprising:  
a device arranged in an intermediate image plane of said eyepiece for displaying information in a visually perceptible manner;  
said eyepiece being constructed with respect to shape, size and fastening means in a same manner which is the same as an eyepiece not having such a device, so that an eyepiece with ~~or without~~ such a device can be exchanged with an eyepiece without such a device or vice versa on optical observation instrument.

11. (New) An eyepiece for optical observation instruments comprising:  
a device arranged in an intermediate image plane of said eyepiece for  
displaying information in a visually perceptible manner;  
said eyepiece being constructed with respect to shape, size and fastening means  
in a same manner which is the same as an eyepiece not having such a device, so that ~~an~~ said  
eyepiece with or without such a device can be exchanged with an eyepiece without such a  
device on optical observation instruments.